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'Wife of Flyer Held by Reds For 5 Years Gets First Letter

Buol, Associate of Chennault, Hopes To Be Freed Soon

By the Associated Press

TAIPEH, Formosa, Jan. 4.—An American resident of Formosa received today the first letter from her husband, a former airlines official, since he was jailed by the Chinese Reds nearly five years ago.

Lawrence Robert Buol, 34, wrote to his wife Sue, that he has hopes of being freed this year. The letter was sent by the Chinese Communist Red Cross to his father in Stockton, Calif., and forwarded to Taipei.

No details were given, presumably because of censorship. His letter, bearing no date or return address, expressed thanks for four packages.

He wrote that he had expected to be released last June, but didn't explain why he wasn't.

Mr. Buol, then chief of flying operations for Civil Air Transport—operated by retired Maj. Gen. Claire L. Chennault—was on a business trip to Mengtsz in Yunnan province January 15, 1950, when the Reds captured the city.

Sue works in Taipei as secretary of Gen. Chennault.

She said that at Geneva last year the Reds said they were holding her husband prisoner because he worked for the airline which, they charged, belonged to the Chinese Nationalists.

She had last heard of him, indirectly, in 1950, when the British consulate at Kunming informed her that he was alive and well.



AP Photos.

SUE BUOL.



LAWRENCE BUOL.

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